REMARKS

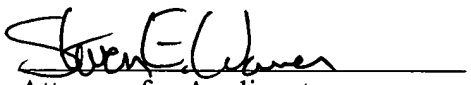
Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 13-22 are presented for consideration in lieu of claims 1-12, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 13 is the sole independent claim. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that claims 13-22 patentably defines features of the exposure apparatus and device manufacturing method of the present invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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